

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ for closing a container ~~(3, 103, 203)~~ provided with a neck ~~(2, 102, 202)~~, ~~[[this]]~~ the device comprising:

~~[[-]]~~ a first portion ~~intended to form~~ forming a closure element ~~(4, 104), i~~

~~[[-]]~~ a second~~[[,]]~~ annular portion ~~(5, 105), intended to be maintained positioned~~ around the neck ~~(2, 102), i~~

~~[[-]]~~ a third portion which forms a tamper-evident tab ~~(6, 106)~~ linking the first ~~(4, 104)~~ portion to the second ~~(5, 105)~~ portion, and which is connected to ~~[[these]]~~ the first and second portions ~~(4, 5, 104, 105)~~ by frangible means ~~(8, 9) and which is intended to be so that the tamper-evident tab must be removed upon first use in order to release the closure element (4, 104), i~~ and

storage means accessible through the second portion for allowing insertion of the tamper-evident tab therein this device being characterized in that it defines means (14, 114) for storing (F) the tamper-evident tab (6, 106), once [[this]] the

Appl. No. 10/500,292

tamper-evident tab has been separated from the first and second portions ~~(4, 5, 104, 105)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the second portion ~~comprises~~ includes a wall forming an annular skirt ~~(5, 105)~~, and wherein the storage means ~~comprising~~ includes:

a storage space between the skirt and the neck; and

a passage ~~(14, 114) made~~ through the wall of ~~[[said]]~~ the skirt ~~(5, 105) and adapted to allow~~ that allows access to the storage space so that ~~the insertion of the tamper-evident tab (6, 106) can be inserted therein in an interior storage space (18, 118, 128) that the skirt (5, 105) and the neck (2, 102) are intended to define between each other.~~

3. (Currently amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that said wherein the~~ passage is formed by a hole ~~[[14]]~~.

4. (Currently amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~, opposite the closure element ~~[[104]]~~, the skirt ~~[[05]]~~ terminates in a free edge ~~[[112]]~~ which defines a notch ~~[[114]]~~ forming ~~[[said]]~~ the passage.

Appl. No. 10/500,292

5. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein,~~ on each side of the tamper-evident tab ~~(6; 106)~~, ~~[[said]]~~ the frangible means ~~present the form of is~~ a continuous line of lesser mechanical resistance ~~(8; 9)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a hinge ~~[[(10)]]~~ that links the closure element ~~(4; 104)~~ to the second portion ~~(5; 105)~~, and wherein the ~~[[said]]~~ frangible means ~~comprising~~ includes at least one line of lesser mechanical resistance ~~[[(9) ,]]~~ which extends between the tamper-evident tab ~~(6; 106)~~ and the second portion ~~(5; 105)~~, and, ~~diametrically~~ diametrically opposite the hinge ~~[[(10)]]~~, defines an ~~[[the]]~~ edge ~~[[(13)]]~~ of a notch ~~[[(20)]]~~ ~~intended to be that is~~ defined by ~~[[said]]~~ the second portion ~~(5; 105)~~ and ~~to uncover~~ uncovers a part of the neck ~~(2; 102; 202)~~ after the tamper-evident tab ~~(6; 106)~~ has been removed.

7. (Currently Amended) A container ~~Container~~ provided with a neck ~~(2; 102; 202)~~, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~ container comprising a body having a neck and a closure device for closing an opening in the neck of the container including:
a first portion forming a closure element;

a second, annular portion positioned around the neck;
a third portion which forms a tamper-evident tab linking the
first portion to the second portion, and which is connected to
the first and second portions by frangible means so that the
tamper-evident tab must be removed upon first use in order to
release the closure element; and

storage means accessible through the second portion for
allowing insertion of the tamper-evident tab therein once the
tamper-evident tab has been separated from the first and second
portions (1; 101) according to Claim 1, mounted on the neck (2;
102; 202).

8. (Currently Amended) The container ~~Container~~ according to
Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the storage means
includes:

a storage space between the skirt and the neck; and
a passage through the wall of the skirt that allows access
to the storage space so that the tamper-evident tab can be
inserted therein ~~closure device (1; 101) the neck (2; 102; 202)~~
~~and said skirt (5; 105) defining therebetween an interior storage~~
~~space (18; 118; 218) to which said passage (14; 114) provides~~
~~access and in which the tamper-evident tab (6; 106) may be~~
~~inserted.~~

Appl. No. 10/500,292

9. (Currently amended) The container ~~Container~~ according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the elements of the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of the neck ~~(2; 102; 202)~~ and ~~[[said]]~~ the skirt ~~(5; 105)~~ of the closure device ~~(1; 101)~~, defines at least one guide ~~(16; 21; 115; 202)~~ for confining the tamper-evident tab ~~(6; 106)~~ in the interior storage space ~~(18; 118; 218)~~.

10. (Currently amended) The container ~~Container~~ according to Claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one ~~confinement~~ guide for confining is an annular projection ~~(16; 21; 115; 222)~~ laterally defining the interior storage space ~~(18; 118; 218)~~.

11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The container according to Claim 8, wherein the passage is formed by a hole.

13. (New) The container according to Claim 12, wherein, opposite the closure element, the skirt terminates in a free edge which defines a notch forming the passage.

Appl. No. 10/500,292

14. (New) The container according to Claim 13, wherein on each side of the tamper-evident tab the frangible means is a continuous line of lesser mechanical resistance.

15. (New) The container according to Claim 14, further comprising a hinge that links the closure element to the second portion, and wherein the frangible means includes at least one line of lesser mechanical resistance which extends between the tamper-evident tab and the second portion, and, diametrically opposite the hinge, defines an edge of a notch that is defined by the second portion and uncovers a part of the neck after the tamper-evident tab has been removed.

16. (New) The container according to Claim 15, wherein, at the notch, the neck projects further than the second portion.